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file NIO

28 October 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Lewis Lapham, D/OPR

THROUGH : [REDACTED] Chief, OPR/SOV-EE

SUBJECT : DCI Briefing on Sino-Soviet Prospects

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1. Yesterday afternoon I took part in a debate on the future of Sino-Soviet relations, organized for the DCI by [REDACTED] had asked [REDACTED] China NIO, to argue the case for the likelihood of Sino-Soviet rapprochement, and me to present the arguments for the other side. [REDACTED] staged this "dog and pony show," as he called it, by seating [REDACTED] at one end of a long table, me at the other end, the DCI in the middle, and assorted community Soviet and China specialists scattered about. After [REDACTED] and I had finished, the Director went around the table soliciting comments. Present, besides those mentioned, were the DDCI, [REDACTED] of OCI, [REDACTED] of OSR, Tom Latimer representing DOD, Paul Cook of State/INR, Garrison the State Soviet Country Director, and a few other State and NIO personnel.

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2. [REDACTED] had indicated to me that the DCI had appeared to like this format in the past, and Mr. Bush seemed appreciative on this occasion. He probed repeatedly for our views on the consequences for the Sino-Soviet-US triangle of various alternative Soviet, Chinese, or US moves. He kept us a half hour beyond our allotted time, and thanked me privately when the meeting broke up.

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